

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A language tutor system comprising:  
a client module;  
a server module coupled to the client module, the server module to download an oral language assignment to the client module to enable a student learning a language to login to the client module and perform the oral language assignment,  
wherein the client module to provide a benchmark audio sentence in the language to the student, to record a recitation of the sentence from the student, to evaluate the recitation of the sentence from the student, to compare the recitation of the sentence with the benchmark audio, and to provide feedback to the student on the comparison.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a client computing device coupled to the client module, wherein the student communicates with the client module using the client computing device.
3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a client computing device, the client computing device having a web browser to enable the student to communicate with the server module, wherein feedback from the comparison of the recitation of the sentence with the benchmark audio is uploaded to the server module to provide a learning history for the student.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the feedback from the comparison of the recitation of the sentence by the student with the benchmark audio enables a teacher to customize oral language assignments for the student based on the student's weaknesses.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a computing device, the computing device having a web browser to enable a teacher to communicate with the server module, the server module comprising a content management module, the content management module to provide content for the oral language assignment downloaded to the client module.

6. The system of claim 1, further comprising a computing device, the computing device having a web browser to enable a teacher to communicate with the server module, the server module further comprising a homework management module, the homework management module to enable the teacher to provide homework assignments to the student, the homework assignments including a homework task, a list of the students to download the homework assignments to, a due date, a number of times the student is to complete the task, a minimum score for the homework assignment, and any comments from the teacher.

7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a computing device, the computing device to enable a teacher to communicate with the server module, the server module further comprising an information management module to

receive results from the oral language assignment and provide learning histories to the student and the teacher and to enable the teacher to provide feedback to the student on the results from the oral language assignment.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the feedback to the student comprises an evaluation of the student's pronunciation of each word in the sentence and each phoneme in the sentence and an evaluation of the intonation of each word in the sentence, wherein the evaluation of the intonation includes duration, stress, and pitch.

9. A language learning method comprising:  
playing a benchmark audio to a student via a computing device, wherein the benchmark audio comprises a sentence recited in a language to be learned by the student;  
recording a recitation of the sentence in the language by the student;  
evaluating the recitation of the sentence from the student; and  
comparing the recitation of the sentence from the student with the benchmark audio.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
providing feedback on the comparison to the student and uploading the results of the comparison to a server module to enable a teacher having access to the server to evaluate the results and provide personalized feedback to the student via a web page.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
providing feedback on the comparison to the student and uploading the results of the comparison to a server module to provide a learning history to the student and a teacher via a web page.
12. The method of claim 9, wherein evaluating the recitation of the sentence from the student comprises:  
matching text from the benchmark audio with the recitation of the sentence by the student to separate the sentence into words and phonemes;  
comparing the pronunciation of each word and phoneme by the student with the pronunciation of each word and phoneme from the benchmark audio;  
and  
comparing the intonation of each word by the student with the intonation of each word from the benchmark audio.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the intonation of each word comprises duration, stress, and pitch.
14. The method of claim 9, wherein the benchmark audio is downloaded from a server to a client module and wherein the client module plays the benchmark audio to the student via the client computing device.
15. A language tutor method comprising:

downloading an oral homework assignment from a server module to a client module to be distributed to a class of students for performing the oral homework assignment on a client computing device; and

enabling each student to login to the client module to perform the oral homework assignment;

wherein the client module evaluates oral responses from each student based on the oral homework assignment and provides feedback on the pronunciation and intonation of each word in the oral responses from each student.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

uploading client module evaluations to the server module to enable a teacher having access to the server module to review the client module evaluations and provide personalized feedback to each student.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein feedback on the intonation of each word comprises duration, stress, and pitch for each word.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

uploading information regarding whether or not each student in the class has performed the oral homework assignment.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

uploading client module evaluations to the server module to provide learning histories on each of the students, wherein a learning history comprises the client module evaluations for each sentence recited by the student from all oral homework assignments.

20. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine accessible instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions provide for playing a benchmark audio to a student via a computing device, wherein the benchmark audio comprises a sentence recited in a second language;

recording a recitation of the sentence in the second language by the student;

evaluating the recitation of the sentence from the student; and

comparing the recitation of the sentence from the student with the benchmark audio.

21. The article of claim 20, further comprising instructions for:

providing feedback on the comparison to the student and uploading the results of the comparison to a server module to enable a teacher having access to the server to evaluate the results and provide personalized feedback to the student via a web page.

22. The article of claim 20, further comprising instructions for:

providing feedback on the comparison to the student and uploading the results of the comparison to a server module to provide a learning history to the student and a teacher via a web page.

23. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for evaluating the recitation of the sentence from the student comprises instructions for:

matching text from the benchmark audio with the recitation of the sentence by the student to separate the sentence into words and phonemes;

comparing the pronunciation of each word and phoneme by the student with the pronunciation of each word and phoneme from the benchmark audio; and

comparing the intonation of each word by the student with the intonation of each word from the benchmark audio.

24. The article of claim 23, wherein the intonation of each word comprises duration, stress, and pitch.

25. The article of claim 20, wherein the benchmark audio is downloaded from a server to a client module and wherein the client module plays the benchmark audio to the student via the client computing device.

26. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine accessible instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions provide for downloading an oral homework

assignment from a server module to a client module to be distributed to a class of students for performing the oral homework assignment on a client computing device; and

enabling each student to login to the client module to perform the oral homework assignment;

wherein the client module evaluates oral responses from each student based on the oral homework assignment and provides feedback on the pronunciation and intonation of each word in the oral responses from each student.

27. The article of claim 26, further comprising instructions for:

uploading client module evaluations to the server module to enable a teacher having access to the server module to review the client module evaluations and provide personalized feedback to each student.

28. The article of claim 26, wherein feedback on the intonation of each word comprises duration, stress, and pitch for each word.

29. The article of claim 26, further comprising instructions for:

uploading information regarding whether or not each student in the class has performed the oral homework assignment.

30. The article of claim 26, further comprising instructions for:



uploading client module evaluations to the server module to provide learning histories on each of the students, wherein a learning history comprises the client module evaluations for each sentence recited by the student from all oral homework assignments.

31. A language training system comprising:

an online client having oral language assignments designed to enable a student to orally practice a language to be learned by the student, the online client coupled to a client computing device to enable a student to login to the online client and perform the oral language assignments, wherein the online client to provide a benchmark audio sentence in the language to the student, to record a recitation of the sentence from the student, to evaluate the recitation of the sentence from the student, to compare the recitation of the sentence with the benchmark audio, and to provide feedback to the student on the comparison.

32. The system of claim 31, further comprising a storage device, wherein feedback from the comparison of the recitation of the sentence with the benchmark audio is stored on the storage device to provide a learning history for the student, wherein the learning history for the student is accessible to both the student and a teacher.

33. The system of claim 31, further comprising a second computing device, the second computing device having a web browser to enable a teacher to communicate with the online client, the online client comprising a

homework management module, the homework management module to enable the teacher to provide homework assignments to the student, the homework assignments including a homework task, a list of the students to provide access to the homework assignments, a due date, a number of times the student is to complete the task, a minimum score for the homework assignment, and any comments from the teacher.

34. The system of claim 31, further comprising a second computing device, the second computing device having a web browser to enable a teacher to communicate with the online client, wherein the teacher, after reviewing the results of a comparison for a student, provides personalized feedback to the student via the online client.